

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

KIRSHA BROWN-YOUNGER,

Plaintiff,

vs.

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE
 DEPARTMENT,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:11-cv-00568-KJD-PAL

ORDER

(IFP App - Dkt. #30)
 (Mtn for Sanctions - Dkt. #17)

This matter is before the court on Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (Dkt. #30) and Plaintiff's Motion for Sanctions (Dkt. #17).

Plaintiff is proceeding in this action *pro se*, has requested authority pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915 to proceed *in forma pauperis*, and submitted a Complaint (Dkt. #1). This proceeding was referred to this court by Local Rule IB 1-9.

I. *In Forma Pauperis* Application

Plaintiff has submitted the affidavit required by § 1915(a) showing an inability to prepay fees and costs or give security for them. Accordingly, the request to proceed *in forma pauperis* will be granted pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). The court will now review Plaintiff's complaint.

II. Screening the Complaint

Upon granting a request to proceed *in forma pauperis*, a court must additionally screen a complaint pursuant to § 1915(a). Federal courts are given the authority dismiss a case if the action is legally "frivolous or malicious," fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). When a court dismisses a complaint under § 1915(a), the plaintiff should be given leave to amend the complaint

1 with directions as to curing its deficiencies, unless it is clear from the face of the complaint that the
2 deficiencies could not be cured by amendment. *See Cato v. United States*, 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir.
3 1995).

4 Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides for dismissal of a complaint for
5 failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. Review under Rule 12(b)(6) is essentially a
6 ruling on a question of law. *See Chappel v. Laboratory Corp. of America*, 232 F.3d 719, 723 (9th Cir.
7 2000). A properly pled complaint must provide a short and plain statement of the claim showing that
8 the pleader is entitled to relief.” Fed.R.Civ.P. 8(a)(2); *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544,
9 555 (2007). Although Rule 8 does not require detailed factual allegations, it demands “more than labels
10 and conclusions” or a “formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 129
11 S.Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009) (citing *Papasan v. Allain*, 478 U.S. 265, 286 (1986)). The court must accept as
12 true all well-pled factual allegations contained in the complaint, but the same requirement does not
13 apply to legal conclusions. *Iqbal*, 129 S.Ct. at 1950. Mere recitals of the elements of a cause of action,
14 supported only by conclusory allegations, do not suffice. *Id.* at 1949. Secondly, where the claims in the
15 complaint have not crossed the line from plausible to conceivable, the complaint should be dismissed.
16 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570.

17 Plaintiff’s Complaint alleges that the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (“LVMPD”) has
18 violated her First and Fourteenth Amendment rights as well as discriminated against her on the basis
19 of disability and gender in contravention of the Americans With Disabilities Act and the Civil Rights
20 Act of 1964. She seeks three million dollars in damages. Plaintiff’s Complaint does not set forth any
21 facts to support her conclusory allegations; it merely states the law she believes LVMPD violated.
22 Plaintiff’s Complaint will be dismissed, with leave to amend.

23 If Plaintiff elects to proceed in this action by filing an amended complaint, she is advised that
24 she should specifically identify each Defendant to the best of her ability, clarify what constitutional
25 right she believes each defendant has violated and support each claim with factual allegations about
26 each Defendant’s actions. There can be no liability under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 unless there is some
27 affirmative link or connection between a defendant’s actions and the claimed deprivation. *Rizzo v.*
28 *Goode*, 423 U.S. 362 (1976); *May v. Enomoto*, 633 F.2d 164, 167 (9th Cir. 1980); *Johnson v. Duffy*, 588

1 F.2d 740, 743 (9th Cir. 1978). Plaintiff's claims must be set forth in short and plain terms, simply,
 2 concisely and directly. *See Swierkeiewicz v. Sorema N.A.*, 534 U.S. 506, 514 (2002); Fed. R. Civ. P. 8.

3 Plaintiff is informed that the court cannot refer to a prior pleading in order to make Plaintiff's
 4 amended complaint complete. Local Rule 15-1 requires that an amended complaint be complete in itself
 5 without reference to any prior pleading. This is because, as a general rule, an amended complaint
 6 supersedes the original complaint. *See Loux v. Rhay*, 375 F.2d 55, 57 (9th Cir. 1967). Once plaintiff
 7 files an amended complaint, the original pleading no longer serves any function in the case. Therefore,
 8 in an amended complaint, as in an original complaint, each claim and the involvement of each
 9 defendant must be sufficiently alleged.

10 **III. Motion for Sanctions (Dkt. #17).**

11 On August 22, 2011, the court denied Plaintiff's Motion to Compel Compliance (Dkt. #16),
 12 finding that her written requests for discovery were premature. Plaintiff's Motion to Compel also
 13 contained a request for sanctions, and therefore, the Clerk of Court split the document into two separate
 14 docket entries. Because the court denied Plaintiff's Motion to Compel, her request for sanctions is
 15 denied as well.

16 Accordingly,

17 **IT IS ORDERED:**

- 18 1. Plaintiff's request to proceed *in forma pauperis* is GRANTED. Plaintiff shall not
 19 be required to pay the filing fee of three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00).
- 20 2. Plaintiff is permitted to maintain this action to conclusion without the necessity of
 21 prepayment of any additional fees or costs or the giving of a security therefor. This
 22 Order granting leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* shall not extend to the issuance of
 23 subpoenas at government expense.
- 24 3. The Clerk of Court shall file Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 25 4. Plaintiff's Complaint is **DISMISSED** with leave to amend.
- 26 5. Plaintiff shall have until **December 12, 2011**, to file her amended complaint, if she
 27 believes she can correct the noted deficiencies. The amended complaint must be a
 28 complete document in and of itself, and will supersede the original complaint in its

entirety. Any allegations, parties, or requests for relief from prior papers that are not carried forward in the amended complaint will no longer be before the court.

6. Plaintiff shall clearly title the amended complaint as such by placing the words "FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT" on page 1 in the caption, and Plaintiff shall place the case number, **2:11-cv-00568-PMP-PAL**, above the words "FIRST AMENDED" in the space for "Case No."

7. Plaintiff is expressly cautioned that if she does not timely file an amended complaint in compliance with this order, this case may be immediately dismissed.

Dated this 10th day of November, 2011.


PEGGY A. LEEN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE